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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: ENVIRONMENT

Report of the Second Committee (Part VII)*

Rapporteur: Ms. Irene FREUDENSCHUSS-REICHL (Austria)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 91 (see A/48/717, para. 2). Action to be taken on sub-item (e) was considered at the 43rd and 47th meetings, on 3 and 10 December 1993. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/48/SR.43 and 47).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft decision A/C.2/48/L.49

2. At the 47th meeting, on 10 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Leandro Arellano Resendiz (Mexico), introduced a draft decision entitled "Large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing and its impact on the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas" (A/C.2/48/L.49), submitted by him, and orally revised it as follows:

3. At the end of paragraph (c), the phrase "and thereafter annually, on the implementation of that resolution" was replaced with the phrase "and to submit subsequently annual updates on further developments relevant to the implementation of resolution 46/215".

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* The report on this agenda item will be issued in 12 parts under the symbol A/48/717 and addenda.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision A/C.2/48/L.49, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 11).

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/48/L.58 and L.83

5. At the 43rd meeting, on 3 December, the representative of Colombia, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Strengthening of the United Nations Environment Programme" (A/C.2/48/L.58), which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, in which it decided to establish a Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,

"Recalling also decision 15/1, of 25 May 1989, of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, in which the Council, inter alia, reaffirmed the central role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the central catalysing, coordinating and stimulating body in the field of environment within the United Nations system,

"Recalling further decisions 16/6 and 16/1, both of 31 May 1991, of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, in the latter of which the Council supported the retaining at United Nations Environment Programme headquarters in Nairobi of the programme activity centres already located there, decided that future major extensions to the physical or other infrastructure of the Programme, particularly those with global functions, be centred principally at Nairobi, and requested the Executive Director to examine the feasibility of providing on-site interpretation facilities and to continue negotiations with the host Government with a view to improving the facilities available at the headquarters office at Nairobi, including external communication services,

"Reaffirming paragraph 38.21 of Agenda 21, 1/ in which it was stated that there would be a need for an enhanced and strengthened role for the United Nations Environment Programme and its Governing Council,

"Reaffirming also paragraph 38.22 of Agenda 21, in which it was stated that priority areas on which the United Nations Environment Programme should concentrate included, inter alia, developing and promoting the use of such techniques as natural resource accounting and environmental economics, environmental monitoring and assessment, strengthening and making operational its early warning function, further development of

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1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

international environmental law and support to Governments in the integration of environmental aspects into their development policies,

"Reaffirming further paragraphs 25, 26 and 32 (c) of its resolution 47/191 of 22 December 1992,

"Commending the United Nations Environment Programme for its leading role in the negotiation of many international conventions on environment, its mobilization of global environmental awareness, and its contribution in the area of capacity-building in regard to the preservation of the environment and its integration into sustainable development,

"Mindful of the need to rationalize environment-related meetings so as to ensure effective capacity utilization at United Nations Environment Programme headquarters,

"1. Endorses the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work of its seventeenth session; 2/

"2. Stresses the need for close cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Commission on Sustainable Development in implementing the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in accordance with the relevant provisions of chapter 38 of Agenda 21;

"3. Welcomes the action-oriented approach of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme towards the implementation of the follow-up activities to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development as outlined in the report mentioned in paragraph 1 above;

"4. Expresses its gratitude to the Government of Kenya for the grant of an additional 40 acres of land for the expansion of office facilities and the improvement of the communications network so as to ensure that the United Nations Environment Programme and other United Nations organs, agencies and programmes based at Nairobi work in a conducive environment;

"5. Invites the Secretary-General to establish a liaison office at Nairobi for the secretariat of the Commission on Sustainable Development, on the basis of arrangements made at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, as called for in paragraph 32 (c) of General Assembly resolution 47/191;

"6. Endorses resolution 17/32 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the Environment Fund and urges Member States to contribute to the Fund, to make their payments in advance of the year to which those payments relate and to pay their contributions early in the year in order to enable the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme to plan and execute programmes more effectively, and

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2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/48/25).

emphasizes that high priority should be given to activities that offer direct or indirect substantial support to developing countries;

"7. Notes with appreciation the efforts of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to ensure that more environment-related meetings are held at Programme headquarters so as to maximize utilization of conference facilities and services;

"8. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the programming of environment-related meetings is rationalized to facilitate economy and more effective capacity utilization at United Nations Environment Programme headquarters;

"9. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution."

6. At the 47th meeting, on 10 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Leandro Arellano Resendiz (Mexico), introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/48/L.83), submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.58, and orally revised it as follows:

(a) In operative paragraph 5, after the words "duly taking", the word "fully" was deleted;

(b) Operative paragraph 6, which had read:

"Endorses resolution 17/32 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the Environment Fund and urges Member States to contribute to the Fund, to make their payments in advance of the year to which those payments relate and to pay their contributions early in the year in order to enable the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme to plan and execute programmes more effectively, and emphasizes that high priority should be given to activities that offer direct or indirect substantial support to developing countries;"

was replaced with the following paragraph:

"Urges Member States to make their contributions to the Environment Fund in accordance with decision 17/32 of 21 May 1993, adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its seventeenth session."

7. The representative of Belgium (on behalf of the European Union), supported by the representative of Australia, amended the text of operative paragraph 9 of the draft resolution by replacing the word "forty-ninth" with the word "fiftieth" in the last line.

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.83, as orally revised and amended, without a vote (see para. 10).

9. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.83, draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.58 was withdrawn by the sponsors.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

10. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Strengthening of the United Nations Environment Programme

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, in which it decided to establish a Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Recalling also decision 15/1 of 25 May 1989 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, in which the Governing Council, inter alia, reaffirmed the central role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the central catalysing, coordinating and stimulating body in the field of environment within the United Nations system,

Recalling further decisions 16/6 and 16/1, both of 31 May 1991, of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, in the latter of which the Council supported the retaining at United Nations Environment Programme headquarters at Nairobi of the programme activity centres already located there, decided that future major extensions to the physical or other infrastructure of the Programme, particularly those with global functions, be centred principally at Nairobi, and requested the Executive Director to examine the feasibility of providing on-site interpretation facilities and to continue negotiations with the host Government with a view to improving the facilities available at the headquarters office at Nairobi, including external communication services,

Reaffirming paragraphs 38.21 and 38.23 of Agenda 21, 3/ in which it was stated that there would be a need for an enhanced and strengthened role for the United Nations Environment Programme and its Governing Council, that, inter alia, the regional offices of the Programme should be strengthened without weakening its headquarters at Nairobi and its liaison and interaction with the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank should be reinforced and intensified,

Reaffirming further paragraphs 25, 26 and 32 (c) of its resolution 47/191 of 22 December 1992,

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3/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

Commending the United Nations Environment Programme for its leading role in the negotiation of many international conventions on the environment, its mobilization of global environmental awareness and its contribution in the area of capacity-building in regard to the preservation of the environment and its integration into sustainable development,

Mindful of the need to rationalize meetings related to the United Nations Environment Programme so as to ensure effective capacity utilization at United Nations Environment Programme headquarters,

1. Endorses the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work of its seventeenth session and the decisions contained therein; 4/

2. Stresses the need for close cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Commission on Sustainable Development in implementing the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in accordance with the relevant provisions of chapter 38 of Agenda 21;

3. Welcomes the action-oriented approach of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme towards the implementation of the follow-up activities to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development as outlined in the report mentioned in paragraph 1 above;

4. Expresses its gratitude to the Government of Kenya for the grant of an additional forty acres of land for the expansion of office facilities and the improvement of the communications network, and encourages it to continue to ensure that the United Nations Environment Programme and other United Nations organs, agencies and programmes based at Nairobi work in a conducive and hospitable environment;

5. Invites the Secretary-General to strengthen further the liaison function at Nairobi for the secretariat of the Commission on Sustainable Development, on the basis of arrangements made at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, duly taking into account all relevant provisions of paragraph 32 (c) of General Assembly resolution 47/191;

6. Urges Member States to make their contributions to the Environment Fund in accordance with decision 17/32 of 21 May 1993, adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its seventeenth session;

7. Notes with appreciation the efforts of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to ensure that as many meetings as possible related to the United Nations Environment Programme are held at the headquarters of the Programme so as to maximize utilization of conference facilities and services;

4/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/48/25).

8. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the programming of meetings related to the United Nations Environment Programme is rationalized to facilitate economy and more effective capacity utilization at United Nations Environment Programme headquarters;

9. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

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1[*]. The Second Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing and its impact on the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas

The General Assembly, taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General, 5/ decides:

(a) To reaffirm the importance it attaches to compliance with its resolution 46/215 of 20 December 1991;

(b) To express its appreciation of the measures taken by members of the international community, international organizations and regional economic integration organizations to implement and support the objectives of resolution 46/215, while expressing concern at reports of conduct and activities inconsistent with the terms of resolution 46/215;

(c) To call on all members of the international community, intergovernmental organizations, regional economic integration organizations and appropriate non-governmental organizations to provide the Secretary-General with information relevant to the implementation of resolution 46/215, and requests the Secretary-General to report to it at its forty-ninth session, and to submit subsequently annual updates on further developments relevant to the implementation of resolution 46/215.

5/ A/48/451 and Corr.1.